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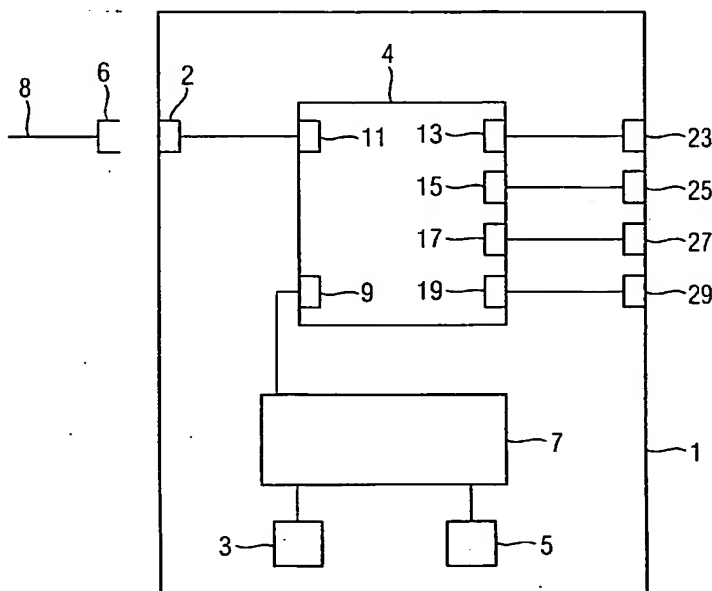
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**(54) Title: REDUCING THE MEMORY REQUIREMENTS OF A DATA SWITCH**



(57) **Abstract:** A data switch (4) is proposed which can be operated such that it generates a MA table of MAC addresses of devices associated with some of its ports (9, 13, 15, 17, 19), but not the MAC addresses associated with one of the ports (11). Packets received by the switch, other than from the port (11), are assumed to be destined for the port (11) and are transmitted via the port (11). If the port (11) is connected to a network, and all the other ports are connected to a relatively small number of devices, such as one device per port, then the memory requirement to store the MA table is dramatically reduced.